

News from the FPPC

California Fair Political Practices Commission
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FPPC Agenda Includes Limits to Legal Defense Funds ***Officials must identify legal dispute to raise contributions***

The Fair Political Practices Commission on **Wednesday (September 12)** will discuss proposed changes of the use and reporting requirements of legal defense funds. The commission's regular monthly enforcement calendar and other items are also on the agenda.

The commission's regular monthly meeting begins at 10 a.m. in the FPPC's eighth-floor hearing room at 428 J St. (Fifth and J Streets) in Sacramento.

Currently state candidates and officeholders can establish a legal defense fund to pay for attorney's fees and other legal costs incurred in defending a civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding arising directly from the conduct of an election campaign, the electoral process, or the performance of the officeholder's governmental activities and duties. The contributions raised for this purpose are not subject contribution limits.

The proposed regulation would:

- require forms to include a description of the specific legal dispute or disputes for which the account is established and require the committee name to include the last name of the candidate or officeholder;
- require that the amount raised be no more than reasonably calculated to pay for attorney's fees and other related legal costs and any funds raised beyond \$5,000 above actual costs must be returned to contributors on a pro-rata basis; and
- require the account to terminate within 90 days of the date all legal disputes for which the account was established are resolved.

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